

# R E V I E W.

Saturday, June 6. 1713.

I Am now bringing this long Work to a close; and this is the last, or very near the last Paper I shall trouble you with.

It has been my Misfortune, that several of my Writings; however otherwise design'd, have given Offence to the Legal Authority I live under; and whose Power it is many ways my Duty, and was always my Inclination to submit to.

And tho' I have the Satisfaction of having never designedly spoken or written any thing that should displeasure; yet as well to testify the Deference I pay to the Laws, and to give others an Example of a useful Subjection to them; I willingly impose a Sentence upon my self for the future, as a just, tho' voluntary Penance, for involuntary Offending.

I gave one Testimony of my disowning a Temper Insolent to Superiours, in my late Submission to the Court of Justice, which I had unwarily affronted; and I had the Satisfaction of seeing that Submission accepted, in a manner that will encourage well-meaning Men to fly TO Justice, not FROM it, when they fall into Mistakes; I think always my Duty to acknowledge what I cannot defend, and to own my self in the wrong when I am convinc'd of it.

If the Resolution I have taken to write no more is likewise acceptable, I hope no Man will envy the Silence and Retreat I am now going to enjoy; or grudge that this Penance should atone for the errors committed in too much speaking.

And now being to take leave of the World, as to *living*, according to that Christian Temper we ought to shew, at leaving the World it self; I freely and heartily ask every Man Pardon, whom I have the least offended or disobligh'd in any thing I have written; and I as heartily and freely forgive those printed injurious Things which I have received from others, *which indeed are not a few*; and this asking Pardon is not sufficient in any Case, tho' I hope it may, I am ready to make any other submissions to them which can reasonably be required.

Pursuing to Extremities a Man willing to acknowledge and Sin no more, and if he has Sin'd already, has done it by inadvertency, is not the Custom or Usage of the *English* Temper, especially where the Offence is not Capital; and where the usual Adverbs of an Accusation, (*viz.*) The *Seditiously* and *Maliciously*, are not very apparent; and

from this general Felicity of this Nation I promise my self some Favour.

But I shall say no more to the publick part of my Case — The State of my Conduct, as to particular Persons and Parties, requires that I should say something at parting, in which I shall study to give as little Offence as I can.

I have struggled long with the Buffoonery of the Age, and have opposed, with my utmost Skill, cool Argument, and calm Reasoning to Party Rage, Personal Prejudice, and Universal Clamour: I have the satisfaction of an honest Appeal to him, who knows better than all of us, what the ends of his Providence are, in suffering us to be thus fatally divided. That I have asked nothing by Party, Personal Influence, or Pecuniary Reward, nor against the Principles I always profess: This Appeal will be heard, tho' the Noise here is so great, that no Appeal to Man, to Reason, or to Conscience, will reach your Ears; I speak now to our Party-Divisions.

If God has any Part among you, any People that he will own in *Britain*, and has any designs of Mercy and Goodness to them, he will give you all an other Spirit — I shall be a quiet Spectator of those wretched abominable Divisions, that I can do no good in attempting to Cure; and I shall be a silent Mourner over the Miseries of my Country, which I expect this Rage, that now governs our Parties, will bring us to.

I know, and am fully assured, that the Spirit that now guides us, as *well one, as the other side*, is not the Spirit that ye shall have, when Heaven resolves upon your Deliverance; and from thence I conclude, that some dreadful Consequences of your Divisions must first appear, whether your Judgments shall come immediately from Heaven, or you shall be made to execute the Sovereign Decree of Providence, one upon another, I do not pretend to determine, tho' I must own I fear the latter.

I acknowledge I cannot find, that either recent as in Memory, or remote as in History, I ever saw, heard, or read the Story of any Nation, or of this Nation, when such Heats, such Feuds, such Rage of Men among themselves, ever went off without Blood: — How it should do so now, I know not.

Your Eyes are upon Men and Means, without the least Deference to the first Cause of Things; you are erecting Party against Party, one Idol to pull down another; Potsherd against Potsherd; and if you meet with



with Disappointment, you rage against Instruments, as if he that made them all, and can dash them to pieces at his Pleasure, had no Hand in it; or as if there was some Evil in the City, and he had not done it.

When I have seen, even those who I have thought good Men, and still hope they are so, run this length; I have not been able to follow, believing I ought not to be Distracted, because my Friends were so — Tho' this was enough to stigmatize me for a Deserter; yet I could not rest there, but have had the boldness to reprove them, and the weakness to hope that they might be convinc'd, not remembering that State Lunacies and Party Madness, like that of Melancholy, are never Cured. When I saw the Word of God turn'd into Bullying and Burlesque, and the Pulpit sound to Party War; when I saw those Hands, which used to be spread forth in Prayers to God, and Blessings to Men, lifted up in virulent Imprecations, Curling and Bitterness against this or that particular Person, as if on one hand the Sovereign Agency had been committed to that Person to act by; and on the other, the Sacred Prerogative of Vengeance had been taken out of God's Hand, and Man was to repay for himself.

When I saw the Dissenters embrace a set of Men that avowedly sold and betray'd them, and who indeed never did any thing else but sell and betray them; nay, when I saw them willing to be sold and betray'd, so they might but pull down one Man, as if God could not pull him down for them, if their Cause was right; or they could pull him down without God, if it was wrong.

When I saw the Contention creep into Societies, into Church-Communion, into Relative Affection, and into all sorts of Duty, destroying Religion, Charity, Justice, Honour, nay, even Natural Affection, I could not but speak; indeed who could, or who can refrain.

*Difficile est Satyram non scribere, nam quis inique Tam patiens Urbis, tam ferreus ut teneat se?*

Juv. Sat. I.

But I considered not that the Rage is too great; I have been like a Man that runs in between two Duellers to part them, and who to prevent the losing their Lives, loses his own; the furious Gladiators run both their Swords into him that would part them, and he falls a Sacrifice to his own Zeal.

On one side I am reproach'd with writing for Gain, Payments, and Pensions; *Alas!* I have seen no Gain, but Enemies; and these I have increas'd without Number. Whatever endeavours I have used to persuade you to Peace on both sides, I have enjoy'd none my self, but am loaded with Scandals, Lyes, Reproaches, and Menaces of various kinds, in your common Discourse, in your Libels and Prints, even from them that know me not: But since I can convince no body by Words, I shall satisfy them now, by letting them see my Gain is so small, I can lay down the Employment; and as I shall not only be out of the Business, but out of the Nation, as soon as publick Engagements will give me leave; I hope Slander shall not follow me so many Hundred Miles as my Designs at present propose to lead me.

I once thought to have retired from State Affairs,

and yet to have kept this Paper up for the sake of the few Friends I have left; who from the beginning have been Benefactors to the Work, and without whom I could not have supported the Expence of it; and in doing this, I thought to have confin'd my future Discourse to Matters of TRADE, thinking this a safe Retreat, and that both sides might have been quietly talk'd to on this Head, as what had no concern in the National Feuds we were embark'd in; but *alas!* Trade too is now become a Bone of Contention; and unless I will say as you say, (*viz.*) That our Trade is ruin'd by the Peace, which I cannot do; and *that only because I know it to be false,* (a poor and unfortunate Reason) I shall displease you there too — Nay, in but giving my Reasons about the French Trade, I have been treated in your Coffee-House Politicks as is intolerable; where behind my Back I meet with such foul abusive, monstrous Language, instead of Arguments as no Man of Sense ought to give, and no Temper can well bear; and this from such a Crew, who may, without any boasting say, dare neither answer me with their Tongues or their Hands.

Again, Should I set up to cry down the great things some say of the Peace, more by half than the Government, who made it, design'd it for, or will promise for it, I should provoke the other side, and who knows where the Disasters of a Man, crush'd between two Weights, shall end?

And would I go about to clear up your general Errors about the Commerce, as now settled in middle, an equitable, and impartial way, what then? Should I hope for Success! *Alas!* Who has Temper enough to bear it! However, as this thought was needful, I was going about it, and have made a Beginning in three Papers, relating to the Trade with *France*; when on a sudden I found my Province Invaded, and that Work taken out of my Hands, by an unexpected Paper without an Authority and call'd the *Mercator*.

This Work I soon discovered, if not done by the Government's Direction, is so far Encourag'd, as to have the helps of Original Papers, Documents and Authorities to speak from, Things, which without Doors, an Author cannot expect, and which I never pretended to. If then this Paper goes on with such Authority, my Parade is over; and as they will, on the other Hand, be no need of me, so there will be no room to say any thing, when an Account vouch'd by such Authorities, shall come out three times a Week.

Thus I am become an Invalid, even in that thing which I thought my Peculiar; and I am very well satisfied, if I may but be quiet, and enjoy my share of the publick Peace; if not, I resolve to leave you; and if I trouble you no farther with my Talk, it is but just, ye trouble me no more another way.

However, before I lay down this Work, I shall give a Summary of what Matters in Trade I had design'd to speak of, and of my Opinion in publick Matters, as I think they stand now in our view; that if ever I should write again, (as I believe I shall not) I may know where to begin, and you may know where I left off.